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Recent Soviet Military Activities in Cuba

1. New information received from highly reliable sources last weekend confirms extensive Soviet military deliveries to Cuba in recent weeks. Surface-to-air missile (SAM) sites, guided missile boats, and additional land armaments have been included in these recent shipments.

2. Eight SAM sites are being set up. One probable assembly area has been identified and SAM equipment has been confirmed at one additional site.

A. The small amount of permanent construction at these sites and the speed of the work indicate the program is proceeding on a crash basis.

B. Some of these sites could be operational within a week or two.

C. A minimum of 125 technically trained personnel will be required to operate each site, which includes six launchers and necessary radar and electronic gear.

1. This figure excludes security and support personnel.

2. No indications that Cubans are trained for SAMs. Soviet personnel doubtless will

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man the sites for at least the 9 to 12 months while Cubans are being trained.

3. The Soviet SAM system is estimated to have a capability to ranges of about 25 to 30 nautical miles.

A. High altitude capability of system would be in the region of 60,000 to 80,000 feet, or in the region of 80,000 to 100,000 feet, depending on the version of the missile employed.

B. Low altitude capability estimated as low as 2,500 feet, but the maximum effectiveness of the system probably would be between 10,000 and 60,000 feet.

4. Additional SAM sites probably will be set up in Cuba in the near future.

A. All sites now confirmed are in the Western one-third of the island.

1. The one area of SAM activity in Oriente province probably will be followed by several others in the vicinity.

2. Further reports from Las Villas province indicate that at least two sites will be located there, but no confirmation or definite locations thus far.

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B. The pattern now emerging suggests as many as 24 sites may eventually be set up--enough to blanket the entire island.

5. At least 8 Komar-class missile boats have been delivered to Cuba in recent weeks.

A. These PT-like boats have an operating radius of about 300 miles and carry two missile launchers each. The radar guided missile is effective against surface targets to ranges of between 15 and 17 miles. It carries a 2,000 lb. HE warhead.

B. Some Cuban naval personnel have received training in the USSR, but it is not known if this included Komar training.

C. These boats are in addition to 13 or more torpedo boats and 6 sub chasers delivered by the USSR earlier this year.

6. The same highly reliable sources indicate that the current shipments also include additional land armaments and possibly combat aircraft.

A. We believe Cuba's aircraft inventory includes approximately 60 MIG jet fighters, including at least a dozen MIG-19s.

B. No MIG-21s or any type of bomber have been noted.

7. Soviet shipments of military equipment and personnel to Cuba show no sign of letting up.

A. About 16 Soviet dry-cargo ships are now en route to Cuba, of which at least 10 probably are carrying military equipment.

1. Total number of military or military-related shipments to Cuba since the current deliveries began in mid-July may be as high as 65.

2. Routine Soviet deliveries of economic aid and trade goods are being made largely on Western ships.

B. At least 1,700 Soviet military technicians arrived in Cuba in late July and early August in connection with these military activities.

1. Bloc military personnel began arriving in Cuba about July 1960.

2. We believe there were about 500 military technicians and several thousand economic technicians in Cuba prior to last month's influx.

3. Most of the newly arrived Soviet military technicians appear to be involved in setting up SAM facilities but thus far we cannot conclude that this is their only objective.

C. At least 1,300 more Soviets have arrived unannounced recently; no reports on their activities so far.

1. Still additional bloc personnel probably have arrived on some of the cargo ships.